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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 30, 1955

Dear Pete:

Attached is a brief American Public Opinion report on International Issues, which we have just completed. It is based on polling results issued by the Department of State. The polls were taken during October, prior to the Foreign Ministers Conference.

The following highlights of the attached report are interesting, and I believe you will agree, encouraging. In sharp contrast to the Western Europeans, who prior to the Foreign Ministers Conference appeared to be relaxed by the Geneva Spirit to the point of apathy towards major East-West issues and problems, the American people --

- understand the real bases of East-West differences
- are deeply concerned about them
- hope for some progress toward real relaxation
- are deeply suspicious about Russia
- support NATO, and a strong line on disarmament and the German question
- want a strong defense posture - and are willing to pay for it.

In connection with this report, it is interesting to note the importance of foreign policy problems to the American people, which was highlighted by a recent finding of the Gallup Poll. On November 20, Gallup reported that, in response to the question:

"What do you regard as the biggest issue, or problem, facing the Government in Washington today?"

- 42% said keeping the peace, foreign policy, dealing with Russia
- 8% said the farm problem, falling prices

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-- 7% said tax reduction

-- 5% said Communism in the United States

Sincerely,



Nelson A. Rockefeller  
Special Assistant

Enclosure

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